



## DESIGNER NEWSLETTER

| VOL. V, ISSUE II | SEPTEMBER 2025 |

## Welcome to the New Members of OLE! Designer Network

Thank you to all OLE! Texas training participants in July 2025:



The OLE! The Texas Designer Training seminar, held on July 24-25, drew 12 registered participants and is now part of our growing community dedicated to creating healthier, more engaging outdoor learning environments for children.

Within this network responsibilities include:

- Following the OLE! Texas design philosophy, theoretical foundations, design development process, assessment of procedures, and research methodologies.
- Dedicating efforts to continuing education and assessing completed projects implementing research and dissemination.
- Extending OLE! trained services: coordinating and preparing workshops, preparing illustrative master plans, construction documents, permitting, construction observation, and issuing design build/construction contracting.

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**OLE!TEXAS**  
OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

\*OLE! Texas is an initiative of the Texas Department of State Health Services in partnership with other state agencies, universities, and organizations across Texas. For more information and a full partner listing, visit [dshs.texas.gov/ole](https://dshs.texas.gov/ole).



TEXAS TECH  
UNIVERSITY







"a multi dimensional approach for Children to learn, explore, experiment, and engage with the OLE"

NAZIA AFRIN TRINA



BEFORE INTERVENTION



AFTER TEMPORARY INTERVENTION

## Designing Outdoor Learning Environments for STEAM Exploration

RESEARCH BY NAZIA AFRIN TRINA, MUNTAZAR MONSUR, NILDA COSCO, LEEHU LOON, STEPHANIE SHINE, ANN MASTERGEORGE

A recent study led by researchers at Texas Tech University at Guadalupe Learning Center (Lubbock, TX) demonstrated how simple, nature-based interventions can turn traditional outdoor spaces into dynamic outdoor learning environments for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) learning. By integrating loose parts, sensory gardens, and water play areas, the study observed a significant increase in children's exploratory, collaborative, and creative behaviors.



PROPOSED PLAY SETTING

For more details

- [\[link for the study\]](#)

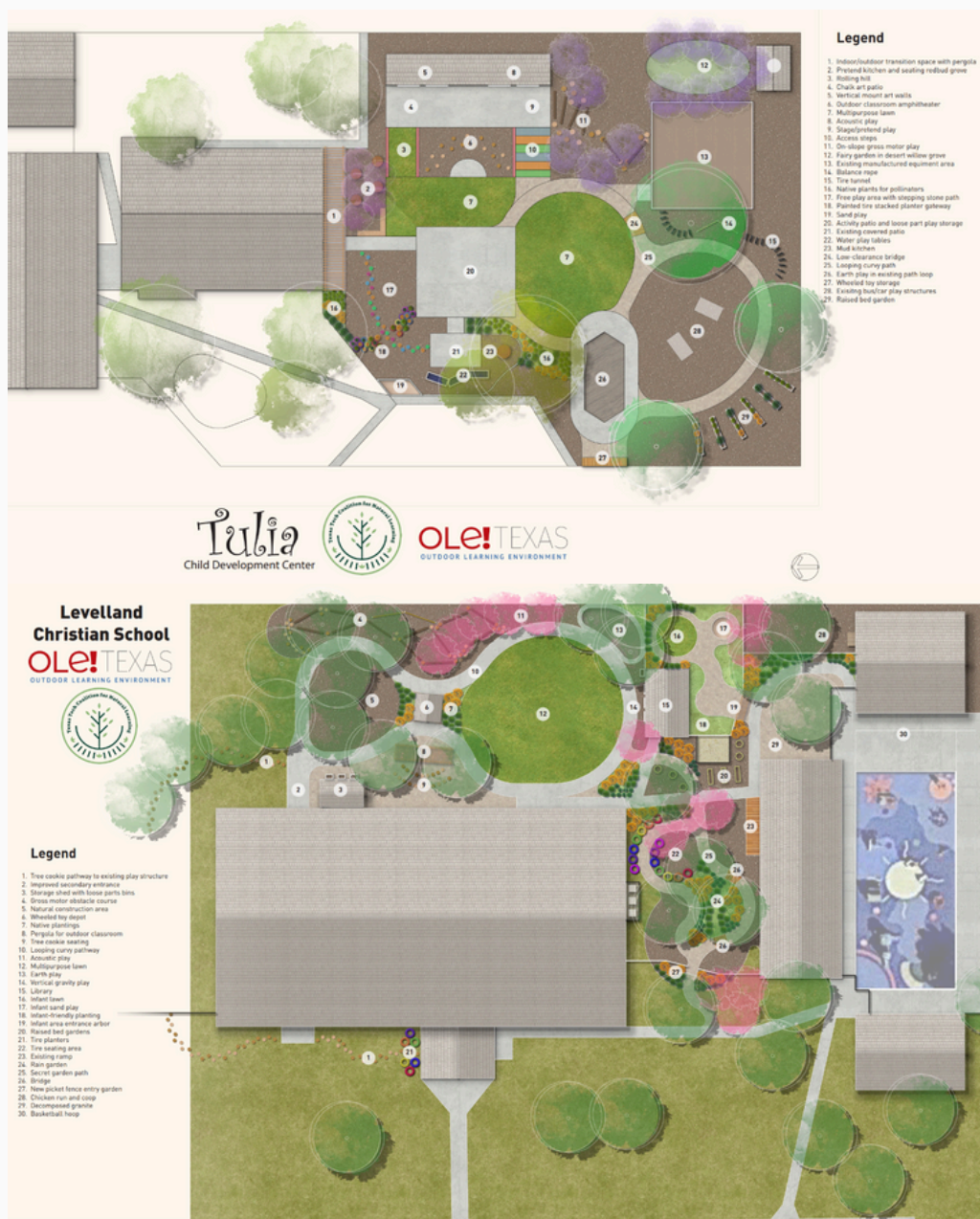




## OLE! Project Highlights

The Texas Tech Coalition for Natural Learning (CNL) team, in collaboration with trained OLE! Designer/Instructor Jared Horsford transformed several outdoor spaces into vibrant OLE! Texas sites. These designs were based on surveys and focus groups that included parents, educators, caregivers, and children.

For more information, visit [Texas Tech Coalition for Natural Learning](https://www.texas-tech.edu/cnl)







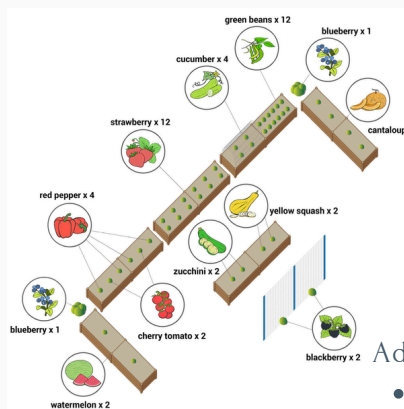
# Cultivating Healthy Futures: How Outdoor Learning Environments is Transforming Early Childhood Nutrition

RESEARCH BY MUNTAZAR MONSUR, MOHAIMEN MANSUR, NAZIA AFRIN TRINA AND NILDA COSCO

A recent study led by OLE-trained researchers at Texas Tech University has shown that hands-on gardening in childcare centers can significantly improve preschoolers' preferences for fruits and vegetables, even in challenging semi-arid climates.

Here are the key findings:

- Increased Vegetable Liking: Children who participated in gardening activities showed an increase in their liking for vegetables on a 5-point scale compared to those who didn't garden.
- Semi-Arid Climate Success: The study was conducted in West Texas, a region with high temperatures and limited rainfall, proving that gardening can thrive even in challenging environments.
- Research focused on areas where childhood obesity rates are higher, highlighting the potential for gardening to make a meaningful impact in underserved communities.



Additional Resources:

- [\[Link to the full study\]](#)

"a strategy to combat childhood obesity and promote lifelong healthy eating habits"

DR. MUNTAZAR MONSUR



TEXAS TECH  
UNIVERSITY







**"OLE! Designer Training is not just about creating; it's about connecting ideas, tools, and possibilities; helping weave them all into a masterpiece."**

NAOMI PERKINS  
OLE! TEXAS TRAINING '25

## Upcoming OLE! Designer Training

Future designers, are you ready to shape the future of outdoor learning environments and make a lasting difference in children's lives? The OLE! Texas Designer Training Seminar, hosted by the Texas Tech Coalition for Natural Learning at Texas Tech University, is gearing up for another exciting session next year! If you're eager to become a part of the Trained OLE Designer Network and drive meaningful change in communities across Texas and beyond, stay tuned. Details for next year's training will be announced soon!

Learn more about OLE, Please visit at the official website:  
[https://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/coalition\\_for\\_natural\\_learning/Resources/OLE\\_Texas.php](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/hs/coalition_for_natural_learning/Resources/OLE_Texas.php)

